

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The average particle diameter (nm) (μm) was determined by means of NICOMP 370 (manufactured by Nozaki & Co., Ltd.) according to a photon correlation method within a week after preparing the inks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

After leaving standing at room temperature for six months after preparing the inks, the particle diameter (nm) (μm) was determined by the same method as used in measuring the initial particle diameter.

Please replace Table 1 on page 21, with the following rewritten Table 1:

Table 1

	Example			
	1	2	3	4
<u>Dispersion step</u>				
Carbon black *1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Styrene-maleic acid 30% aqueous solution	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Aminomethylpropanol	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Propylene glycol	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Water	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.8
<u>Ink-preparing step</u>				
Phosphoric acid ester *3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Aminomethylpropanol	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Propylene glycol	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Water	31.0	28.0	31.0	28.0
Rust preventive and fungicide	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<u>Thickening</u>				
Associative thickener 10% aqueous solution *4	3.0	6.0		
Associative thickener 10% aqueous solution *5			3.0	6.0
<u>Test items</u>				
Pigment initial particle diameter (μm) (nm)	110	122	116	128
Pigment particle diameter after 6 months (μm) (nm)	112	123	115	128
Viscosity of ink (mPa·s)	115	186	195	326
Ink-seeping resistance	O	O	O	O
Writing property	O	O	O	O

Please replace Table 2 on page 22, with the following rewritten Table 2:

Table 2

	Example			
	5	6	7	8
<u>Dispersion step</u>				
Naphthol red *2	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Phosphoric acid ester *3			0.5	
Styrene-maleic acid 30% aqueous solution	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Aminomethylpropanol	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Propylene glycol	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Glycerin				5.0
Water	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8
<u>Ink-preparing step</u>				
Phosphoric acid ester *3	0.5	0.5		0.5
Aminomethylpropanol	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Propylene glycol	15.0	15.0	15.0	
Glycerin				15.0
Water	30.0	26.0	30.0	28.0
Rust preventive and fungicide	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<u>Thickening</u>				
Associative thickener 10% aqueous solution *4				6.0
Associative thickener 10% aqueous solution *5	4.0	8.0	4.0	
<u>Test items</u>				
Pigment initial particle diameter (μm) (nm)	95	115	121	107
Pigment particle diameter after 6 months (μm) (nm)	97	115	120	108
Viscosity of ink (mPa•s)	218	405	383	211
Ink-seeping resistance	○	○	○	○
Writing property	○	O	O	O

Please replace Table 3 on page 23, with the following rewritten Table 3:

Table 3

	Comparative Example			
	1	2	3	4
<u>Dispersion step</u>				
Carbon black *1	8.0	8.0		8.0
Naphthol red *2			7.0	
Styrene-maleic acid 30% aqueous solution	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Aminomethylpropanol	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Propylene glycol	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Water	30.8	28.8	31.8	18.8
<u>Ink-preparing step</u>				
Phosphoric acid ester *3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Aminomethylpropanol	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Propylene glycol	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Water	30.0	28.0	28.0	26.0
Rust preventive and fungicide	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<u>Thickening</u>				
Xanthane gum 10% aqueous solution	4.0	8.0		
Polyacrylic acid 10% aqueous solution *7			6.0	
Alkali-thickened emulsion *8				20.0
<u>Test items</u>				
Pigment initial particle diameter (μm) (nm)	121	143	117	113
Pigment particle diameter after 6 months (μm) (nm)	397	685	264	281
Viscosity of ink (mPa•s)	301	452	293	196
Ink-seeping resistance	○	○	Δ	X
Writing property	Δ	X	Δ	Δ